

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2415

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5846

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: SHAN NARCOTIC CONTROL PROPOSAL

REF: STATE 064556

1. WE SUGGEST THAT IN DISCUSSING THE SHAN PROPOSAL FOR NARCOTIC CONTROL WITH OTHERS, WE NOT MAKE THE POINT THAT THE SHAN STATE ARMY (SSA) IS A MINOR TRAFFICKING GROUP. THE PROPOSALS WERE SIGNED NOT ONLY BY THE SSA BUT BY THE SHAN UNITED ARMY (LOI-MAW KHAKWEYEI). ACCORDING TO ADRIAN COWELL (WHO PROBABLY DRAFTED THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE PLAN), CHANG SHU-CH'UAN, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE SUA AND ITS PRESENT ACTUAL COMMANDER IN THE ABSENCE OF CHANG CHI-FU, WAS A MAIN ELEMENT IN DISCUSSIONS WHICH LED TO THE PRESENT PROPOSALS. SUA IS ONE OF THE TWO OR THREE MOST POWERFUL TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THESE PROPOSALS DOES GIVE THEM AN ELEMENT OF CREDIBILITY WHICH THEY WOULD LACK IF ONLY THE SSA WERE INVOLVED.

2. OBVIOUSLY, THIS FACT OF SUA INVOLVEMENT DOES NOT AFFECT OTHER PERSUASIVE ARGUMENTS WHICH MILITATE AGAINST THE PRACTICABILITY OF OUR ASSOCIATION WITH THE PROPOSALS.
MASTERS

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